IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 23 and 24.

Respectfully submitted,

Lawrence E. Ashery, Reg. No. 34,515 Attorney for Applicants

LEA/lm

Enclosure: Version With Markings Showing Changes Made

Dated: January 3, 2002

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The Assistant Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to charge payment to Deposit Account No. 18-0350 of any fees associated with this communication.

EXPRESS MAIL Mailing Label Number: EL 743 541 373 US Date of Deposit: January 3, 2002

I hereby certify that this paper and fee are being deposited, under 37 C.F.R. § 1.10 and with sufficient postage, using the "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service of the United States Postal Service on the date indicated above and that the deposit is addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

Kathleen Libby